

## **A Litany for the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women**

Wondrous Creator, you made us in all diversity  
And you have put your voice in all living beings  
We hear your songs on the tender winds  
And your roar in the storms of our lives.

### **We thank you for putting your heart and call on all people.**

Throughout history women have told your goodness  
The first to proclaim the resurrection were your daughters  
And all the disciples who had been trembling in fear  
Found an empty tomb and a brand new hope.

### **We thank you for putting your heart and call on all people.**

Eleven stood bravely before you and the people  
In defiance of the exclusive rules of our church  
They kneeled and were made priests forever  
Despite the scorn and hatred they all received.

### **We thank you for putting your heart and call on all people.**

The road was rough and full of angry dismissals  
Some leaders turned their backs on our church  
Establishing new denominations and new sects  
Yet you smiled on your whole church in that time.

### **We thank you for putting your heart and call on all people.**

In 1989, Barbara Harris was made bishop  
And despite the cruel words and the isolation  
She stood firm in her faith for us all  
And taught us all how to sing in hard times.

### **We thank you for putting your heart and call on all people.**

We thank you for the bravery of the first ordained and those ordaining  
For Merrill Bittner, Alla Bozarth, Alison Cheek, Emily Hewitt,  
Carter Heyward, Suzanne Hiatt, Marie Moorefield Fleisher, Jeannette Piccard,  
Betty Schiess, Katrina Swanson and Nancy Wittig as well as  
Bishops Daniel Corrigan, Robert DeWitt and Edward Welles.

### **We thank you for putting your heart and call on all people.**

Our church has stumbled and often struggled  
Too often a place of privilege and exclusion  
Yet you change us and you open our hearts  
And continue to renew us despite ourselves.

### **We thank you for putting your heart and call on all people.**

Wondrous Creator, open our hearts to your voice  
So we might hear your call at the very margins

Let us make room for new and different leaders  
So we might reflect humanity's wholeness and creation's beauty.

**We thank you for putting your heart and call on all people. Amen.**

*--The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol J.W.T. Gallagher  
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